

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A rubber-based composite material to be arranged between a carcass and a sidewall for reinforcing a tire comprising  
  
a non-woven fabric;  
  
a coating of a metal or metallic compound reactable with sulfur, the coating being formed on ~~at least one~~ the surface of filaments constituting the non-woven fabric by a physical vapor deposition (PVD) method or a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) method; and  
  
a rubber that adheres to the coating ~~and that covers~~ forming a continuous layer and covering the non-woven fabric.
2. (original): The rubber-based composite material according to claim 1, wherein the metal or metallic compound reactable with sulfur is cobalt or an oxide of cobalt.
3. (original): The rubber-based composite material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a sputtering method is used as the physical vapor deposition (PVD) method.
4. (original): The rubber-based composite material according to claim 3, wherein the sputtering method is a magnetron sputtering method.
5. (canceled).

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.114(c)  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/960,345  
Attorney Docket No. Q65935

6. (currently amended): A tire wherein a reinforcing layer comprising a rubber-  
based composite material according to claim 1 ~~is used as a reinforcing material~~ between a  
carcass layer and a sidewall.